

Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 A-01 SY-05 /019 W

-----011559Z 087687 /44

P R 291100Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1285

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

1. PRESENTLY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO POSTS IN PAKISTAN ARE GRANTED FIFTEEN PERCENT, PESHAWAR TWENTY PERCENT, HARD-SHIP POST DIFFERENTIAL BASED ON ISOLATION AND HEALTH CONDITIONS. SINCE THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN PAKISTAN MARCH 7, THERE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE CIVIL STRIFE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, WITH PARTICULAR EFFECT IN KARACHI, LAHORE AND HYDERABAD WHERE MARTIAL LAW HAS BEEN IMPOSED SINCE APRIL 21. PESHAWAR, RAWALPINDI AND ISLAMABAD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED TO A LESSER DEGREE, BUT THIS COULD CHANGE.

2. THE CIVIL DISTURBANCES HAVE TAKEN THE FORM OF DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WITH ARSON, LOOTING, DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC REAL PROPERTY, STONING OF SECURITY FORCES, ROADBLOCKS, STRIKES BY SEAPORT AND AIRLINE WORKERS, TRUCKERS, CLOSING OF BUSINESS HOUSES AND FACTORIES. CURFEWS ARE IN EFFECT IN KARACHI, LAHORE AND HYDERABAD. IN GENERAL, A NEAR CLOSING DOWN FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF ALL COMMERCE AND SOCIAL ACTIVITY. GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS HAVE ALSO TAKEN TO THE STREET AND CLASHES WITH ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROCESSIONS HAVE OCCURED. SECURITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORCES IN EFFORT TO CONTAIN ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES USE TEAR GAS, STEEL-TIPPED CANES AND BULLETS. THE NUMBER OF DEATHS OVER THE PAST SIX WEEKS COMES TO ABOUT 250. MANY OF THEM IN KARACHI, LAHORE AND HYDERABAD. ARRESTS ARE ESTIMATED TO RUN AS HIGH AS 28,000.

3. AS YET THERE HAS BEEN NO DIRECT ATTACK AGAINST NAY

AMERICAN OR USG INSTALLATION. HOWEVER, THREATENING LETTERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND ONE TELEPHONE THREAT OF A KIDNAPPING. THERE HAS BEEN SOME DAMAGE TO US VEHICLES IN KARACHI FROM THROWN OBJECTS. OUR IMMUNITY FROM ATTACK COULD CHANGE FOR THE WORSE AS UNFOUNDED RUMORS SPREAD OF US INVOLVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE OPPOSITION. FOR PAST SEVERAL WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN EARLY DAILY MEETINGS OF US OFFICIALS AT ISLAMABAD, KARACHI AND LAHORE TO EVALUATE SECURITY SITUATION AND GIVE ADVICE TO THE AMERICAN CITIZENS RE TRAVEL CONDITIONS. DURING THESE WEEKS, THE AMERICAN SCHOOLS HAVE, ON OCCASION, BEEN CLOSED FOR SECURITY REASONS. SEVERAL AMERICANS ARE UNEASY AS TO THEIR SAFETY. SOME MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY AT KARACHI HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY.

4. SINCE WE PREPARED THE ABOVE, THE PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN HAS DELIVERED A WIDELY PUBLICIZED SPEECH ALLEGING DIRECT, LARGE-SCALE U.S. INTERFERENCE IN THE PAKISTAN POLITICAL PROCESS DESIGNED TO OUST HIM FROM OFFICE. THESE ALLEGATIONS, AND THE WAY THEY WERE MADE, CLEARLY INCREASE THE SECURITY PROBLEMS WE FACE. IN THE WAKE OF THE SPEECH WE HAVE ADVISED THE COMMUNITY THAT WHILE WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS AN IMMINENT THREAT TO AMERICAN PERSONNEL OR INSTALLATIONS IN PAKISTAN WE URGE THEM TO REFRAIN FROM TRAVEL OUTSIDE THEIR CITIES OF ASSIGNMENT AND TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS WITH REGARD TO SECURITY AT THEIR RESIDENCES.

5. AT THIS TIME, USG POSTS IN PAKISTAN DO NOT FORESEE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEED FOR IMPOSING AN E&E STAGE BEYOND OUR CURRENT STANDFAST. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY DOES BELIEVE THE SECURITY SITUATION IS SERIOUS ENOUGH TO WARRANT INCREASING THE HARDSHIP POST DIFFERENTIAL TO TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT AT THE EMBASSY AND THE CONSTITUENT POSTS OF KARACHI, LAHORE AND PESHAWAR, ON A TEMPORARY BASIS UNTIL THE SITUATION RETURNS TO NORMAL. CONSTABLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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SAS ID: 2785868
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040901
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